Maurice Hinchey NEWS
26 TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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EPA PROPOSES ELLENVILLE SCRAP YARD FOR SUPERFUND PRIORITY LIST

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed that the Ellenville Scrap Iron and Metal site be placed on the National Priority List (NPL) of hazardous sites in the United States. Hinchey has prodded government agencies into looking more carefully at the site since being contacted by area residents in 1997.

"It's been a long wait, but I'm glad that the Ellenville Scrap Yard is now getting the attention it deserves," said Hinchey. "A spot on the NPL will ensure that this site will get the highest level of scrutiny."

The NPL is a list of the most contaminated sites in the United States. The list is required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), which was enacted in 1980 and is commonly known as the Superfund law. The NPL is intended to guide EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risks associated with a release of hazardous substances.

The Ellenville site was proposed to the NPL along with 15 other sites in a rule published in the Federal Register on September 13. The public has 60 days in which to comment on EPA's evaluation and scoring of the site. EPA will then evaluate the comments and determine whether to finalize the site on the NPL. Once the site is finalized on the list, EPA can take further investigative and remedial actions.

Hinchey was contacted in December 1997 by constituents who live near the scrap yard. Early in 1998 Hinchey repeatedly urged the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to more thoroughly test for contamination at the site. The DEC subsequently closed the scrap yard down and EPA conducted its own tests, finding significant contamination.